

orientation of the bag in relation to its direction of travel can be maintained so that strain on the bag is minimized.

The spine 15 adjoining the edges 10 is suitably aligned to maintain the orientation of the bags, i.e. so that the rim of the bags (even when the bag is open) lies substantially in one plane throughout its passage through the station 12, and suitably also in the sealing station.

The jaws 4 are suitably shaped conventionally to produce a slit between two adjacent sealing seams.

The chain of bags can be guided laterally, e.g. by a strip of foil welded to the mid-strip 6. The edges of the foil strip can then be folded up and guided in a channel extending along the table, through station 12 and on. The foil strip may of course be formed by the flat tube from which the chain of bags is produced, i.e. of the upper layer of foil between the lines 1A.

I claim:

1. An apparatus for packeting objects in bags comprising:

two chains of bags, and a central strip transversely separating said chains of bags, said central strip having opposite edges, with each said edge being secured to one of said chains of bags;

each of said bags having an inner wall, said inner wall having a secured lip, said secured lip of each said bag being attached to the respective edge of said central strip for the said chain of the said bag; each said bag having an outer wall, said outer wall having a free lip; an aperture being defined between said inner and outer walls to receive objects to be packeted;

an elongated transfer track for said central strip to be transported along, said transfer track having opposite sides and including a shaping head having a pair of spaced support edges which start upstream in the direction of transportation as separated by a first distance and rise below said central strip for lifting said central strip; said support edges converge as they rise in the direction of transport to be spaced a second distance apart which is less than the width of said central strip and to form a spine in said central strip between said edges thereof, said spine extending in the direction of transport, whereby as said central strip travels on said support edges, it supports said bags by their respective said secured lips so that each said chain of bags travels along a respective said opposite side of said transfer track;

each of said support edges having a respective rising bend which converges toward said other bend of the other said support edge for separating each said bag outer wall from said bag inner wall as they pass over said bends to allow access to the interiors of said bags, said bends being oriented so that the lengths of said apertures of said bags traveling along said bends are made less than the lengths of said inner walls of said bags traveling along said bends to separate said outer walls from said inner walls;

means for transporting said bags along said transfer track; and,

means for packeting said bags after said outer walls are separated from said inner walls of said bags.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said edges of said shaping head substantially define adjacent edges of a tetrahedron.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a blow-nozzle aimed to blow toward said aper-

tures for separating of said free lips from said secured lips of said bags.

4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said chains of bags are arranged in mirror symmetry around said central strip and each is supported by a said support edge, and said support edges are arranged substantially symmetrically.

5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bends of said transfer track converge and rise in the vertical and horizontal planes to lift said central strip in the direction of bag chain transport.

6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said bends are rising and converging S-bends.

7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said transfer track is shaped such that said bags are transported along said transfer track from substantially horizontal to substantially vertical orientation.

8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said pair of support edges converge and rise to a level higher than a level in which said bags are substantially horizontally oriented.

9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said support edges converge to a substantially parallel orientation on said spine.

10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a support wall extending vertically beneath said support edges for supporting said inner walls of said bags as said bags travel along said transfer track.

11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said support edges rise and converge over a distance in the transport direction equal to at least half the length of said bags.

12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said central strip and said support edges are so shaped and so positioned that said central strip is folded over said support edges to cause said inner walls of said chains of bags to approach each other until they are arranged in substantially parallel orientation.

13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a roll of flat, tubular film to form said chains of bags, said tubular film including an upper layer and a lower layer to define said outer walls and said inner walls, respectively, of said bags, and two central, parallel welds running longitudinally and bordering said central strip to define said secured lips of said bags, said upper layer of said tubular film being provided with longitudinal slits outside each of said longitudinal welds to define said free lips of said bags.

14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said roll of flat, tubular film includes means to laterally separate each bag within said chains of bags.

15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said means to laterally separate includes transverse sealing jaws to produce transverse cuts through said tubular film to produce separate edge portions of each of said bags.

16. A method of packeting objects in bags comprising:

providing two chains of bags, each chain being secured to a respective opposite edge of a central strip, wherein each said edge is secured to one of said chains of bags by:

rolling said chains of bags separated by the central strip into a roll of flat, tubular film, said film including an upper layer and a lower layer to define outer walls and inner walls, respectively, of said bags and prior to said rolling